



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

LASCO FORD GENERAL MANAGER SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR MONEY LAUNDERING

Brother was also indicted and sentenced for same crimes

DETROIT—The general manager of a car dealership in Fenton, Mich., was sentenced yesterday to 18 months in prison and two years supervised release for money laundering following his guilty plea and an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Matthew Lasco, the general manager of Lasco Ford, pleaded guilty Dec. 20 to money laundering following his Jan. 27, 2004 grand jury three-count indictment on drug distribution and money laundering charges. He also received a \$500 fine. U.S. District Judge Bernard A. Friedman handed down sentencing.

Jay Lasco, Matthew Lasco's brother, was included in the same indictment. Jay Lasco pleaded guilty Oct. 4 to conspiracy to distribute marijuana and methamphetamine (ecstasy) pills, and was sentenced Jan. 10 to two years probation.

"We will always work to preserve the security and safety of our communities," said Brian Moskowitz, ICE Detroit special agent-in-charge.

ICE special agents began investigating the Lasco brothers in the spring of 2003 following a confidential source's tip regarding distribution of marijuana and ecstasy. Matthew Lasco had reportedly distributed thousands of ecstasy pills, and had been previously convicted by the State of Michigan for distributing marijuana.

ICE undercover special agents later purchased marijuana with the assistance of a confidential informant from both Matthew and Jay Lasco. Matthew Lasco also bragged to the informant and later to ICE special agents that he had made more than \$200,000 from selling drugs. In the winter of 2003, Lasco learned of the ICE undercover operation and broke off all contact with the informant.

ICE special agents arrested both brothers Feb. 12, 2004.

Matthew Lasco's \$220,000 home is currently the subject of federal civil forfeiture proceedings, and his \$80,000 boat was also subsequently seized by ICE special agents as the proceeds of drug money.

Lasco Ford of Fenton, Mich., is owned by the father of Matthew and Jay Lasco.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Karl Overman, Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, prosecuted the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.